THE SUN WORSHIPPERS

A Story of Mexico.

By HON, JOHN H. SMITH, of Astoria.

We were tanned and toughened and cheerful and charmed,

Through mesquite and maguey and dry buffalo grass,
We hiked up a rugged plateau, and then
Swung up and around through a tortuous pass
And up and around and then upward again.

Which crowned a bold mountain's immutable crest, And under its shade near the long days' decline

No door was opened. No greeting was said.

But the silent city revealed us its fate:

Its walls were but ruins; its people were dead.

And there on the mountain beneath the grove's shade

And the drift of the ages, sublime and serene

And the stillness of death brooked over the scene

Sat down on a grave, and wiping the sweat From his brow, where a trace of the Aztec still lurkes, He said, as he lighted a cigarette:

And dream in the moonlight and peer up above

Once the world at the feet of these strange people lay

"Well, they came from below to this pure upper air,

"Did they hail from above ! I can hardly decide,

For the pricets at Tlacotepec say it's not so,

If the wind blew their souls to the stars when they died,

"But away and aloof from the scowls and the scars, The sorrow and strife, and the stress and the strain,

"They lived here in peace. Here their temple bell rang

"And the natives down there in the valley now tell

How the doves that still flock here and hover around

Was at pance with the world and at peace with himself.

and their mecca, this alter crowned, tablet strewn ground;

Women sang as they wove, and men smiled as they wrought. Here they danced with delight at the dewn of the day To welcome the sun and were thrilled by the thought

And, as part of its light, their own lives were divine, Here they crossed to the moon, as it rose on the night, And laughingly, joyfully fell into line

In its praise. Here they reveled in festivals, sports,

Of this mountain, and each mother's son of the gang

Are emblems of peace, and are pilgrims as well,

"And then, when the west glows in crimson and gold, In wonder and awe they will whisper to one That the alter fires built by these p-ople of old Still burn in the sky on the trail of the sun.

"Here, as music and mirth turned their work into play,

"That its light was all life, and all life was its light,

No provisions for arcenals, prisons nor courts,

"Here they nestled to nature when touched by distress,

And were sooth d into sleep by the wind's soft caress."

And in proud, earnest tones in conclusion then said:

"Say, they too were sun-hine, warm, cheerful and fair, And thrown on this dark world to help make it bright,

Like the glimmer and gleam and the glow and the glare Of their alterires thrown on the darkness of night.

"On these tablets and temples you find not a trace

Ah! here lived the men of a marvelous race Too wise to seek trouble, to great to seek fame.

In their place, I suppose, and you praise them, but I Doff my hat at the thought of the ancient who stood

That night, in our camp, when our blankets were spread, We looked to the sky and were glad it se-med near, And we smiled on the moon as it sailed overhead.

Next morning we greeted the sun with a cheer,

Broke the spell of our silent reflections, to say:

"is is better to worship the far away sun

And to dream in the moonlight and peer up above
Than to struggle for wealth like a son of a gun

With nothing to worship and nothing to love."

With his feet on the earth and his face to the sky."

Of a single inscription-not even a name.

"Your heroes who struggle for glory are good

Next day we were back in the saddle again And hitting the trail in a strennous way,

In deep meditation, when one of our men

As it murmered the musical message of love.'

Heard the call of a rill or the coo of a dove

His laurels of triumph, and, baring his head,

"For processions which blent in a grand scremade

And melody, peace and contentment, and made

Our guide then arose, like a victor who dons

He stood for a moment a statue in bronze,

Sky pilots deny it; and they ought to know,

The worry and woe, and the wrangling and wars
Of the heartless, interminable struggle for gain.

With its splender and wealth. What they wanted was light. So in wonder they'd worship the sun through the day, And they'd dote on the moon and the stars in the night.

And their lives, like their temples, were simple and square, And in more ways than one they lived close to the sky.

Where their homes, like their hopes, were established on high

Than to struggle for wealth, like a son of a gun. With nothing to worship and nothing to love.

Like their city, unnamed, undisturbed and unknown

Under long rows of uninscribed tablets of stone, The ancient, anomalous populace lay,

And our thoughts ran fast though our mules were slow

BOOTED and spurred and belted and armed, We traveled the wilds of Mexico

We came to a grove of oak, pinon and pine,

We entered a city and halted to rest.

No warder appeared at the strange city's gate.

Stood tower and terrace, arch and areade,

And resting in peace there in silent array

Our rollicking guide, "Santiago Bill" Yerkes,

"It is better to worship the far-away sun

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### \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* WEATHER.

Oregon and Washington -Partly cloudy with light rain or . snow at intervals. .......

### CHARTER-MAKING.

sional element in it, except what is injected with a fixed purpose. In the ence, sussion, or undue influence.

The preliminary matter of appoint ing the most capable and unbiased men in the community is a large and responsible duty in itself and is a vital It seems to be officially settled that pre-requisite to the good work ex- it is dangerous to get murdered in pected. It is a nice function to select Connecticut if one dislikes to have the a group of such men as will be commended by the community affected. and whose is charged with the naming of the commission must do the utmost his, or their, best and most temperate before. judgment shall dictate in this behalf

The commission once appointed, it must be given ample leeway of its own; it must not be hampered by extraneous authority, or beholden to any influence beyond its own ranks and rules. Its work must be kept quiet, undiscussed, unweighted, unknown to the public in whose interest it is being wrought, until the whole and conclusive charter ,or system of amendment, is finished and submitted. Then it may be publicly reviewed, revised. re-referred, and brought to the limit of the popular demand. But, in the first instance the framers must not be Congress to curb "the unnatural and subjected to the vagaries and prejudices of irresponsible advisers. It were injustice to the city and the committee to interpose these conflicting and cumbersome counsels and a detriment enough under the easiest conditions.

The popular desire for any special legislation may be made known by fixed and definite channels, such as the Common Council or other authentic agency. or through communications to the from a wealthy wideh's fortune, a cism by, the general public, until its to study that entrancing subject.

curative amendments absolutely neces- or else take a leaf out of Ohio's joursary to the chartest as its exists; and nal of progress and build a crystal sary to the chartest as its exists; and palace, where the inauguration coreadviser who shall be paid for this ser- of death to those who participate in vices as in any other emergency where or withness them.

course is had to such service. But lawyers and politicians, as such, should never be enrolled in the commission itself. That is the bane of chartermaking. And this is said with all respect for people of these professions. It is a truth born of downright experience, the country over, and re-born every time the folly is repeated.

The season for charter-making is that season in community affairs where there is the least possible friction agitation, controversy, and public turmoil. Here endeth the first lesson!

### THE MAN AND MOMENT.

If it does not actually beat the record for bravery and self.abnegation in the rescue of human beings from death. the rescue of human beings from neath.
the achievement of Captain Mark Casto and his men comes so close to it as to make the record itself feel uncomfortable. In heroism it has never been surpassed. "My God!" was the cry of the daring sailor, as he looked at the wave-battled Cherokee and knew that sixty-three lives were imperilled aboard her, "I can't see them die so near shore!" And within an hour his little ten-ton fishing smack, the Alberta, had snatched the long-imprisoned passengers and crew from the very jaws of death and landed them safely on dry land. "So near shore!" The grounded ship was only three miles from the New Jersey coast and in plain sight of people in Atlantic City, All the devices of the experienced wrecking companies and of the life-saving service of the United State's govern-ment were powerless to rescue the ship's company, yet seven doughty fishermen, with only the most ordinary sort of a boat, accomplished the feat. Charter-making is not an art. It The government has brave, skillful. is pure business. There is no profess efficient men a-plenty in its coast patrol-but there are still better men outside the service, it seems. The incident ought to move Congress to offer simplest construction that can be put an adequate money prize to anybody upon the task there is no room for who will invent a mecaanical device polities, no room for private interests, for reaching and rescuing sea goe's unno room for individual aspirations no der such circumstances. The heroism room for anything save the public bundled up roughly in other men than good, equally and impartially applied. Mark Casto, Axel Holmquist. Nelson Every phase of action that is calculated Kregson, Lewis Johnson, Jediah Schute, to disturb or distort the work of the Frederick Busch and Frank Maris. It men charged with the duty of char- cannot be created by act of Congress, men charged with the duty of char-for it is God-given only. In these men ter-making should be eliminated, and it deserves prompt and substantial the framers should be utterly free to recognition from a people that has a do their whole best without interfer- heart and admires courage,-N, Y, Ex.

reputation of a suicide.

EDITORIAL SALAD.

Another great advantage of it all is that the country is learning about a lot of Congressmen it never heard of

The Harvard overseers seem to be expressing a general demand when they want "clean, decent, pleasurable" football or no football at all.

Mr. Balfour is said to have made an admirably temperate address after the returns come in. Evidently he was unable to induce himself to express any decided sympathy over his defeat.

Before accepting Admiral Coghlan's statement that the naval militia is inferior the people will ask him to let them hear how it sounds in poetry.

Senator Heyburn, of Idaho, wants unholy congestion" of money in Wall street. A more general diffusion of money-especially in Idaho-would meet 8 a long felt want in that State.

From the Budget statement it is to the work, which is always hard learned that the Russo-Japanese war cost Russia \$1,050,000,000. This estimote of course does not include the aftermath which she is still busily engaged in reaping.

Thanks to a handsome endowment officers of the commission, but the number of the distinguished persons number of the distinguished persons who have been engaged in teaching charter-makers should be personally socialism to the American people for exempt from contact with or critical number of years are now privileged

It should be supplied with the best on the bill submitting an amendment to charter formulas known; it must be the Constitution changing the date of first apprised of the specific needs of the inauguration of the President from the community; and advised upon the March 4 to the last Thursday in April

thousand years. In view of such a be- it indicates a lack of civilization and nighted condition, bank presidents, at of progress in what is commonly supleast, will not object to the doctrine, posed to be one of the most highly "China for the Chinese."

In China, according to Colonel Hei- The report comes from Pittsburg that the world. Doubtless some deaths and civilized and progressive communities in

stand, of the Department of the East, in that city and its environs more than injuries are inevitable. They are bound U. S. A., when a bank fails they first seventeen thousand persons were killed to occur in all circumstances of human cut off the heads of the officials and or injured last year in industrial estab- existence and activity. But it seems then divide the assets among the de- lishments and on railroads. If that re- virtually cortain that due care would positors, with the result that there has port is true it constitutes a reproach to greatly diminish that casualty roll of not been a bank failure in China for a civilization. Indeed, we might say that seventeen thousand,

Wilhelm Schmied, of Unternalb, Germany, who instructed a stonemason to inscribe on his wife's tombstone the words: "Here rests the body of Marie Schmied, who died, after much suffering from the effects of unscrupulous treatment," has been sentenced to a month's imprisonment for slandering the doctor in the case,

> Natural history always interests children, who usually recall explanations of the phenomena in their own way. An account of the habits of the cuckoo, for instance, was apparently absorbed at the time, but was reproduced thus a few days later: "The cuckoo? Oh, that's the bird that doesn't lay its own eggs."

Indiana has made a new record. All her Congressmen are college bred, and it probably will not be long before the aspirant for Congressional honors in that commonwealth will also have to be the author of at least one book. Indiana has taken up culture, and in Eugene Field's phrase she "will make it

A claim was once placed in the hands of Judge Peters, of Bangor, Me., for collection. A notice was sent to the debtor, who called and promised to pay the following Saturday. The Judge said: "Now, don't say you will pay Saturday night unless you mean to; just take a few more days and be sure. Say you will pay next Wednesday." "All right," said the man, "if I live until next Wednesday I will pay that bill." Wednesday came, but no man appeared to settle the bill whereupon the judge wrote out a notice of the death of the man and put it in the daily paper. The next day the bill was settled.

Sir Harry Samuel, a Unionist candidate for Parliament, is the author of this bull: 'The legislative garden of the Liberals," he said, 'is un arid swamp." If such a Parliamentary authority as Mr. Gladstone said. "It is no use for the honorable member to shake his head in the teeth of his own words," lesser lights who blunder in the political areas have no reason to be ashamed. Mr. Balfour once spoke of "an empty theater of unsympathetic auditors," and Lord Curzon congratulated his party on the circumstance that "though not out of the wood we have a good ship."

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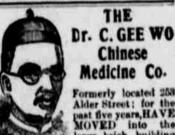
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